One particularly suitable method of packet processing has been described in detail in applicant's co-pending application serial number 09/753,400, filed on even date, which is incorporated herein by reference. In brief, the method is as follows. All incoming traffic, i.e., the incoming bit stream, received on a service port, is segmented into variable-length segments. The segments can be of pre-determined fixed length or the segments can have variable length within the particular service, for example, the length of an Ethernet packet. Each segment typically includes a destination address within the source network, a source address within the source network, information representing the length or type of the frame, and data to be transmitted in the frame. In most cases, a plurality of frames make up the entire data transmission.

REMARKS

This is a preliminary amendment amending the specification to provide a complete cross-reference to a related application. Entry hereof is respectfully requested.

If there is a fee occasioned by this amendment, including an extension of time fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to deposit account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted
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